

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03  
/034 W

-----121354Z 057294 /44

P R 121300Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1347

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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BRUSSELS FOR FAA REP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FI

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR VERIFICATION OF FAA AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATE

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF FINNISH BORDER GUARD (AUTONOMOUS ELEMENT IN DEFENSE FORCES) HAVE REQUESTED EMBASSY TO VERIFY VALIDITY OF FAA CERTIFICATION OF HELICOPTER PARTS. REPORTS OF FAA INVESTIGATION AND PRIVATE LAWSUIT HAVE RAISED QUESTION IN BORDER GUARD EYES OF RELIABILITY OF EQUIPMENT THEY HAVE IN STOCK. EMBASSY NEEDS VERIFICATION OR INDICATION OF STATUS OF FAA INVESTIGATION WHICH CAN BE PASSED TO BORDER GUARD. END SUMMARY.

2. REP OF FINNISH BORDER GUARD HAS BROUGHT TO EMBASSY ATTENTION COPYRIGHTED WASHINGTON POST STORY OF EARLY FEBRUARY 1977, WRITTEN BY BILL RICHARDS, WHICH ALLEGES THAT FAA INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED SALES OF SUBSTANDARD HELICOPTER PARTS TO FOREIGN MILITARY USERS IS UNDERWAY, AND THAT FAA AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATES WERE INCORRECTLY ISSUED FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT. NEITHER FINLAND NOR THE BORDER GUARD'S U.S. SUPPLIER IS MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE.

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3. BELL HELICOPTER TEXTRON, FORT WORTH TEXAS, HAS SENT A CIRCULAR WARNING OF SUCH "BOGUS" PARTS, ASSERTING THAT PARTS ARE FALSELY LABELLED AS BELL. MANY BORDER GUARD PARTS ARE FROM BELL OR SO LABELLED.

4. THE 23 APRIL 1977 ISSUE OF FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL

MAGAZINE INDICATES BELL HAS SUED A NUMBER OF FIRMS OVER THIS ISSUE, AND THE PARENT OF THE BORDER GUARD'S SUPPLIER IS NAMED AS ONE OF THESE COMPANIES, RAISING THE QUESTION OF THE RELIABILITY OF THE PARTS.

5. THE BULK OF THE PARTS IN QUESTION CONTAIN AN FAA AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATE SIGNED QUOTE E. L. TRUPE, A & P 1512192. FAA APPROVED REPAIR STATION 4045 END QUOTE.

6. THE BORDER GUARD USES ITS HELICOPTER FLEET, IN ADDITION TO ITS NORMAL FUNCTION, TO FERRY GOVT. OFFICIALS AND VISITORS, SO THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR EMBARRASSMENT TO USG IF THIS MATTER CANNOT BE CLARIFIED, AS THEY WOULD HAVE TO WITHDRAW SOME CRAFT FROM OPERATIONS.

7. EMBOFF ADVISED BORDER GUARD TO CONTACT BELL DIRECTLY, AS WELL AS THEIR SUPPLIER, BUT ALSO AGREED TO ATTEMPT TO VERIFY AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT. PLEASE ASCERTAIN IF FAA AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATE CITED PARA 5 CAN BE CONSIDERED FULLY RELIABLE. IF NOT, PLEASE ADVISE WHAT FURTHER ACTION EMBASSY AND/OR BORDER GUARD SHOULD TAKE.  
HOUSTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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